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UN Relief Agency for Palestine
Refugees to Continue Services 3



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UN Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees To Continue Services

The UN Relief and War Agency for the Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is again postponing the major reductions in its services that will be necessary if the agency is to trim its estimated \$35 million deficit during the current year. The Agency had announced in March that it would be forced to make drastic cuts in its food and educational services, possibly as soon as May 1, unless additional contributions were received. This week, however, the Agency decided to continue funding the UNRWA program, at least through May.

Despite a number of attempts to solicit more money from the wealthy Arab states, no contributions have been forthcoming. The Arabs continue to argue that Western states created the Palestinian problem and should support the refugees. If they were to increase their financial contributions, the Arabs maintain, this could create an undesirable precedent and imply Arab acceptance of responsibility for the refugees.

There are, however, growing indications that the Arabs may be adopting a more flexible approach to the problem. At the recent Arab League meeting, the Arab League's Secretary General, supported by Jordan and Lebanon, made a strong pitch for increased contributions. Although the Arab foreign ministers did not make a decision on the matter, they endorsed efforts by Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to seek

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money bilaterally from the wealthier Arabs to donate to UNRWA. There are also indications that the PLO will not obstruct these efforts to obtain greater Arab contributions.

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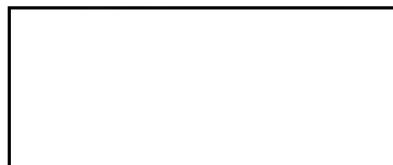
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EC-Greece Tie Given a Boost

Relations between the EC Nine and Greece continue to improve as demonstrated by the conclusion of a new EC-Greece association protocol and the visit of Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis to Paris on April 16-18.

The protocol signed in Brussels last week extends the association agreement between Greece and the original EC Six to the three newest members of the community--the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark. The two sides also approved an interim accord which calls for the three to drop their tariff barriers on July 1 while allowing Greece a more gradual reduction of its duties.

Full harmonization of trade policies, however, must await the conclusion of negotiations on exports of Greek wines, fruits and vegetables to the EC and the Greek request for about \$400 million in financial assistance over the next five years. The Greeks are seeking a July meeting of the EC-Greece Association Council at the ministerial level in Athens to resolve these issues.

The French government reiterated its support for Athens' early accession to full EC membership during Prime Minister Karamanlis' visit to Paris. Although the present agreement makes Greece eligible for full membership only in 1984, both sides stated that they hoped full membership could be achieved before 1980.

The French said they would encourage

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greater imports from Greece to achieve a trade balance and support Greek applications for commercial and community loans of some \$600 to \$900 million dollars.

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France and the community recently expressed their willingness to support Athens in whatever initiatives it might take to try to resolve the impasse with Turkey over the Cyprus and Aegean issues.

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